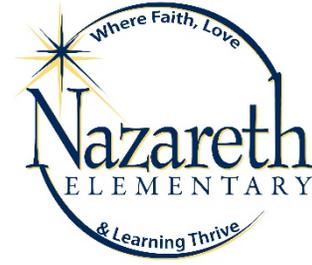


September 8, 2020



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have received your commitment form indicating that your child/ren will continue with distance learning when school reopens this week. Thank you for giving this decision serious thought. If there is a need to change your plan, please contact me for a conversation.

As I have written in past communications, distance learning this quarter will be different. It cannot be the same schedule of communication as in the spring, for the teachers will now be teaching all day in their classrooms. Your child's teacher will work out a weekly Zoom schedule with you based on her availability during a break or after school. There may be times when your child can connect with the class on a particular project or lesson, too.

Teachers will post lessons on their Google Classrooms and will communicate with you through DoJo or other forms of communication as needed. Please have your child check Google Classroom daily. Do reach out to the teacher if you have questions. We are working on ways for some core lessons to be taped and posted for those at home. Starting in October, we will have the assistance of a few St. John Fisher students to connect remotely with the children weekly. They will work closely with the classroom teacher on ways they can assist the children learning at home. The remote connection times once or twice a week with our children will have to work around their own college class schedules.

We ask for your patience for teachers have never instructed in this dual way before. The first days of school on campus will be working with the children to settle them back into the routine of school, building class community, rekindling friendships and making new ones, and training them in the new procedures and protocols. Since there are only two days of school this week for every student, there may not be many lessons posted on Google Classroom yet.

Nazareth's expectations for a student learning remotely will be the same for all students in school – good attendance, a positive attitude, readiness and willingness to learn and grow each day, good work habits, consistent effort, and a healthy life style.

Daily routine for distance learning:

- Get a good night's sleep and get up each morning as if coming to school. Weekdays are not the time to sleep in or consider it a day like a snow day. School is in session.
- Get dressed for school. Uniforms are not necessary, but if it helps one to feel more prepared for school, do wear it. No pajamas on a school day.
- School **attendance** is required by the NYSED, whether on campus or at home. Check in via Google Classroom is required each day **by 8:15 a.m.** for our attendance records.
- If your child is sick, please call the school office as you did when your child attended in person. If the school does not hear from you, the nurse will be calling.
- If a child does not check in for attendance and we are unable to reach a parent or guardian, we have to mark the child illegally absent.
- Follow teacher assignments and due dates. Work on assignments daily.

- Set a specific time for working on academic assignments during normal school hours.
- Complete work in a timely manner and submit it as directed by the teacher/s.
- Have a special work place set aside for doing schoolwork. A workstation or personal office space with little distractions will make your child feel that school is important and s/he will feel important.
- Take breaks from screen time. Read, do some art, exercise, sing, try some creative writing, do a science project...
- Take time to reach out to others. Send a card to a sick relative or friend. Connect virtually with a friend.
- Pray every day as you would in school.

Various ways to connect with your remote learner will increase as teachers and parents adjust to this new face of education. Again, we ask for your patience. At the same time, we will do all we can to support your child at home. Please let your child's teachers know if you are having difficulties connecting to the Google Classroom, understanding an assignment, or have other questions. We want this quarter to be very successful for every child so each one continues to grow in knowledge, faith, and values.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created these very uncertain times and touched every life by many unprecedented changes in our living, learning, and working environments. Let us pray for one another that all will remain safe and healthy, always our top priority. We look forward to the day when everyone in our school community can be together again.

Instructional Materials: We will let you know this week of a pickup day for your child's textbooks, books, and materials. Every child will be loaned a Chromebook when they arrive. According to RCSD policy, we could not place our order, paid through Title I funding, until after September 1. After the Chromebooks arrive, we will process them and contact you again for pickup.

Do not hesitate to call if I can assist you in any way. Thank you for walking with us in the education of your child. It is not easy to have a child learning from home every day, and children being children, some might try to take the easy way out. Please stay strong in making your child understand this is school time and not play time. We do not want any child to fall behind in his/her studies. Please stay well!

Peace and blessings,


Sr. Margaret Mancuso